EMPEROR SAID:

"I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW MANY DIED. I DO NOT KNOW MYSELF. AN INVESTIGATION IS NOW UNDERWAY IN EVERY SCHOOL THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE TO FIND OUT THE NUMBER OF MISSING STUDENTS."

(IN PARIS TODAY, THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE'S AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, SYLVESTRE BANGUI, TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT SOME 100 CHILDREN WERE KILLED. HE SAID THE DEATHS OCCURRED IN JANUARY AND APRIL.

(MR BANGUI, WHO SAID HE HAD RESIGNED HIS POST AND ASKED FOR ASYLUM IN FRANCE, ADDED THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO MAKE THE ACCUSATION PUBLIC AFTER A NUMBER OF WITNESSES GAVE HIM INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTS OF THE KILLINGS DURING A RECENT VISIT HOME.)

MORE 1314

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RLS DATE 10/15/82
RDS☐ or XD☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R100

R 17963)2z@TCZCCZC

AM-BOKASSA 2 KIGALI

THE "PAPA BOK AFFAIR" -- AS IT IS REFERRED TO HERE -- TODAY COMPLETELY OVERSHADOWED THE 23-NATION SUMMIT DUE TO END TONIGHT.

THE CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS TO HAVE REVIEWED ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND ITS FORMER COLONIES IN AFRICA, INSTEAD CAME TO GRIPS WITH THE AFFAIR AT ITS MORNING SESSION, RELIABLE SOURCES SAID.

A FIVE-NATION AFRICAN INVESTIGATION TEAM WILL SOON BE SENT TO THE EMPIRE'S CAPITAL, BANGUI, TO ENQUIRE INTO THE KILLINGS ON BEHALF OF THE SUMMIT, THE CONFERENCE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE EMPEROR, TOLD OF HIS PARIS ENVOY'S DENUNCIATION, TOLD REPORTERS: "HE IS A BRIGHT MAN, WITH BRILLIANT QUALITIES. I SHALL NEVER TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST HIM."

ASKED IF HE FELT THE AFFAIR HAD SHAKEN HIS THRONE, THE EMPEROR SAID: "I AM A SOLDIER. I HAVE NEVER BEEN SCARED IN MY LIFE. I AM NOT SCARED FOR MY CROWN."

A CENTRAL AFRICAN DELEGATE HERE, HOWEVER, SAID PRIVATELY: "THIS IS A SERIOUS BLOW FOR HIM."

MORE 1316